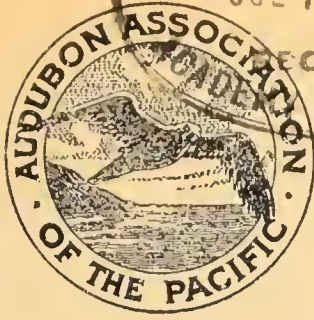


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GULL
BULLETIN

VOLUME 25

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., JULY, 1943

NUMBER 7

Complimentary Exchange List of The Gull

THE GULL is sent each month to a courtesy list of ornithological societies, museums, and libraries. Some of these groups issue a publication which they send in exchange to the Editor of THE GULL. These magazines or bulletins are filed as the property of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, and are available to your use upon request.

American Museum of Natural History, "Natural History" received.

American Ornithologists' Union, publication "The Auk", not received.

Berkeley Public Library, no publication received.

California State Chamber of Commerce, no publication received.

Library, University of California, no publication received.

Library, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, various scientific bulletins issued from time to time received in the past by Mrs. Stephens and Mr. Webb.

Library, Division of Fish and Game, no publication received.

Fish and Wildlife Service Library, no publication received.

Georgia Ornithological Society, "The Oriole" received.

Massachusetts Audubon Society, "The Bulletin" received.

Michigan Audubon Society, no publication received.

Library of Ornithology, McGill University, Annual Reports received of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds.

National Audubon Society, "The Audubon Magazine" received.

Natural History Museum, San Diego, monthly bulletin received.

Oakland Chamber of Commerce, no publication received.

Oakland Free Library, no publication received.

Library, Ohio State Museum, no publication received.

Oregon Audubon Society, "The Audubon Warbler" received.

Cooper Ornithological Club, "The Condor" received.

San Francisco Public Library, no publication received.

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, no publication received.

Library, Smithsonian Institution, no publication received.

Library, Stanford University, no publication received.

Wildlife Research, special bulletins received as published.

Los Angeles Audubon Society, "The Tanager" received.

Brookline Bird Club, "Bird News" received (publication temporarily suspended).

United States National Museum, no publication received.

Wilson Ornithological Club, "The Wilson Bulletin" received.

The Way of the Albino is Hard

In the late winter, when the olive trees are laden with purpling fruit, the birds come in flocks to feed. Early on the morning of February first I saw a bird with strange markings deep in the branches. After watching for some time, I was able to identify it as an albino female robin. The tail was completely white, and there were large white patches on the breast; the back was barred with white, similar to the markings of a Sapsucker. It yodeled and pulled worms from the lawn in true robin fashion. It was around the yard from February 1st to the 26th. After that date it was seen about six blocks away with a band of robins, who took flight as soon as the albino flew among them. The bird was mongrel in appearance, and I fear had an unhappy existence, for it always looked disheveled and weather-beaten.

—Mrs. A. F. Peterson, Oakland, California



Glaucous Gull

On February 28th, Wm. McLain Pursell reported seeing a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at Lake Merritt. A few days later Herman Leffler reported this same species from Lake Merritt. On March 14th Mr. Leffler and myself went to the lake and saw a bird which certainly looked like an immature of the species. On April 14th, while observing shore birds along Otis Drive in Alameda, I unmistakably saw a second-year Glaucous Gull. There were Glaucous-winged and Western Gulls present at the same time. The Gull in question, besides being almost white, had a pinkish bill with a black tip. The light for observation was perfect.

—Junea W. Kelly



Zone Numbers

We have been requested by the Post Office Department to put the proper zone number after the name of the city when addressing mail. In order that The Audubon Association of the Pacific may carry out this regulation for the mailing list, will you please send your correct zone number to Miss Ivander MacIver, Treasurer, 2414 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California.



A Strange Romance

A spring or two ago a handsome young Wood Duck flew into the pond near the Eighth Avenue entrance to Golden Gate Park. He rather liked it there. It was safe, it was quiet, and there was plenty of food. As time went on, the Wood Duck became lonely. He began to think how delightful it would be if a young lady Wood Duck would see him on the pond and decide to stay around. Perhaps in time, since it was spring, he could persuade her to build a nest and stay right on in a paradise for two.

Wishful thinking brought no lady Wood Duck. Instead it brought two Mallard maidens — not just one, two! Had you entered the park at Eighth Avenue during that period with your eyes open to the goings-on in the world of birds, you would have been highly entertained by the avian drama being enacted on the little pond. The two Mallard girls fell madly in love with the gorgeous Wood Duck. His smooth plumage, outlined

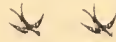
with white in just the right places, his amethyst breast, his turquoise-trimmed wings, and his ruby eyes simply devastated them. They had never seen a more beautiful creature. (For that matter, neither has anyone, bird or man!) All friendship ceased between the Misses Mallard. They went immediately into battle for the affections of the dashing drake. True, it was most disturbing to his peace, but it was spring, and there were no birds of his own feather around, and so — well, what did happen?

Did the story end with one broken duck-heart, a nest with eggs, and ten or a dozen little half-breeds? I regret to confess that I do not know. Hundreds of people passed the pond during those weeks in spring, but only a handful really saw the Wood Duck, and fewer still recognized the threat to the purity of the Wood Duck race. Those who did were either too busy or too unlucky to find the nest which they suspected resulted from the courtship.

Along the Shore

How intent the shore birds are on the business of procuring nourishment! Observe how they dash out to the water's edge, as if they were going to dive right in, then make a hasty retreat when the waves break and the water threatens to touch them — even as you and I! Watch the dance of the Sanderlings. You can almost hear the music of it — the tiny winged creatures that move out as one body, like a well-trained chorus, following the ebbing tide, returning as the water flows. Over and over again, the same routine, accented at intervals by wings flashing silver in the sunlight, as something disturbs the steady pattern and they take flight simultaneously — to return in a few moments to resume their rhythmic dance.

Laurel Reynolds, Piedmont, Calif.



June Field Trip

Due to military restrictions, many of the best birding areas in Marin County are closed to the public. For this reason it was a gracious gesture on the part of Mr. Eric Kinsey to allow us to visit his aviaries in Manor as the main feature of our June field trip. Mr. Kinsey set aside the entire day for our benefit, and personally conducted us through his most interesting project. This proved profitable, as close-up studies of many species were made. To be able to see three species of nuthatches together was a thrilling experience. Mr. Harwell recorded in notes the song of the White-throated Sparrow. Perhaps we may hear his interpretation later.

After our tour of the aviaries, Mr. Kinsey led the way over a mountain road to a picnic spot which overlooked the northern end of Ross Valley and Mt. Tamalpais. After returning to Manor some of the group walked over the abandoned railroad right-of-way toward White's Hill, and thus added nine species to the list. Forty-four species were observed.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Crow | Bullock Oriole |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Chickadee | Brewer Blackbird |
| Sparrow Hawk | Bushtit | Black-headed Grosbeak |
| Quail | House Wren | Lazuli Bunting |
| Mourning Dove | Bewick Wren | House Finch |
| Anna Hummingbird | Robin | Pine Siskin |
| Allen Hummingbird | Russet-backed Thrush | Willow Goldfinch |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher | Western Bluebird | Green-backed Goldfinch |
| Black Phoebe | Hutton Vireo | Spotted Towhee |
| Western Flycatcher | Cassin Vireo | Brown Towhee |
| Wood Pewee | Iridescent Warbler | Lark Sparrow |
| Cliff Swallow | Pileolated Warbler | Junco |
| Raven | Summer Warbler | Chipping Sparrow |
| California Jay | Meadowlark | Song Sparrow |

Members present: Misses Cohen, Elwonger, Fay, Kirk, Papina, Warford, Webb, Werner, and Young; Mesdames Austin, Courtright, Bozant, Kelly, Kilham, Richardson, and Roscoe; Messrs. Bryant, Harwell, Kilham, Scott, Sumner, and Wolff. Mr. Wayne Short, President of the St. Louis Bird Club, one of the largest ornithological clubs in America, was a guest.

—Mary L. Courtright, Historian

Audubon Notes

JULY MEETING: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, July 8th, at 8 p.m. in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Mr. Bert Walker of the Junior Museum of San Francisco will be the speaker. His subject will be the work done by the Museum, illustrated by specimens.

JULY FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, the 11th, to the far end of Redwood Canyon, Oakland. Take the "A" train at 7:25 a.m. at the San Francisco Terminal. Get transfer and take No. 18 car at First Avenue to end of line, going out Park Boulevard. Then we will take the 8:57 Piedmont Pines bus (the only bus for that day) and get off at the end of the line; from there we will walk to the point of destination. Bring field glasses and lunch.

Mr. Arthur Myer will be the leader.

JUNE MEETING: The 309th meeting was held on Thursday, June 10th, in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library, President Mrs. Harold C. Austin, presiding.

Dr. E. Raymond Hall gave a very enlightening review of facts concerning "Current and Post-War Conservation of Native Mammals". Dr. Hall explained the relationship between the Fisher, Porcupine, and the Yellow Pine. He showed how the rodents are the foundation stones of the building, and particularly stressed the problem of deer population versus feed.

Mrs. Austin called attention to a recent paper published by the California Academy of Sciences entitled "Early Naturalists in the Far West", by Roland H. Alden and John D. Ifft.



Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

The following observations have been reported:

Lazuli Bunting, May 19; Male Western Tanager, May 22; Pine Siskins and Russet-backed Thrush, May 23 in a San Francisco Garden, on Upper Terrace, Marie Millard.

One Cedar Waxwing, June 1, San Francisco, Joseph J. Webb.

Hermit Warbler, May 8, Dimond Park, East Oakland; Lawrence Goldfinch, June 5, Berkeley Campus; Raven, June 12, Golden Gate Park, Junea W. Kelly.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President..... | Mrs. Harold C. Austin..... | 541 Boulevard Way, Piedmont |
| Corresponding Secretary..... | Mr. Joseph J. Webb..... | 519 California St., San Francisco |
| Treasurer..... | Miss Ivander MacIver..... | 2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley |
| Editor..... | Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds..... | 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont |

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 p.m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.